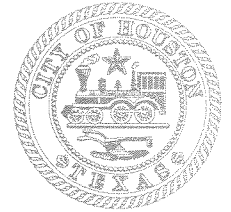


TONI LAWRENCE

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL MEMBER DISTRICT A



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2005

Contact: Mike Howard, 713.247.2010

Council Member Toni Lawrence and Mayor Bill White

to Tour Demolition of Hilton Town Apartments

Houston – Mayor Bill White joins Council Member Toni Lawrence’s efforts to remove portions of the structurally unsound Hilton Town Apartments located at 2201 Wirt. The Council Member and Mayor, along with residents of the area, will tour the demolition site on June 14 at 9:00 a.m.

“I am pleased these 12 buildings on the Hilton Town campus will be demolished. Empty and dilapidated buildings are a blight and safety hazard to every neighborhood and this particular complex is not at all representative of Spring Branch,” Lawrence said. “I campaigned on this very issue and this event is the result of persistence, cooperation and hard work between the City, its Neighborhood Protection Corps and the constituents of Spring Branch.”

Demolishing Hilton Town is the culmination of work spanning a decade. Former Houston City Council Member Helen Huey first championed the neighborhood’s desire to see several of these buildings removed in 1992, and after she was term limited in 1997, the project lay dormant for the next 6 years.

State law requires the City of Houston to prove that a building is dangerous. A licensed structural engineer must inspect and survey the building in question and determine its structural integrity. If the building is structurally unsafe the City can then take legal action to have the structure demolished. Even though some of the buildings in Hilton Town are abandoned and have an unsightly appearance, they in fact have been deemed structurally sound and therefore the City is unable to immediately demolish them.

“If the property owner is not a good neighbor, I am willing to put the power of my office and the City behind efforts to tear down every dangerous building in District A,” Lawrence said.

Council Member Toni Lawrence is in her first term representing District A, a region comprised of the White Oak Bayou Corridor, Spring Branch, Willowbrook and west Houston communities. She currently serves on the Flooding and Drainage Issues Committee, Fiscal Affairs Committee, Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, Quality of Life Committee, the Regulation, Planning and Development Committee, and the Municipal Courts Taskforce and the Legislative Taskforce.

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